1	2	3	4
East Zone			
Orissa	539.7	830.4	676.8
West Bengal	414.9	654.4	392.3
TOTAL (EZ):	954.6	1484.8	1069.1
GRAND TOTAL:	6764.2	7464.5	5850.6

Compensation to Bhopal tragedy victims

1286. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of compensation paid so far by the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal owned by DOW Chemicals which leaked 27 tonnes of lethal gas over the city during 1984 causing death of thousands of people, leaving several thousands as orphans and crippled who drink poisonous polluted drinking water daily, even after nearly 25 years after that disaster, and remedial measures taken so-far;

(b) whether DOW Chemicals Public Affairs Specialist Kathy Hunt said during 2002 that 500 dollars as compensation for an Indian victim of that gas tragedy was plenty amount while justifying in having paid 10 million dollars to an American child who suffered brain damage caused by its Dursban Insecticide Factory; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard towards payment of compensation to every crippled victim of Bhopal Gas Tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The process of distribution of compensation to gas victims commenced in 1992 and 10,29,517 claim cases were filed for compensation. All the cases have since been settled. As on 30-11-2008, compensation of Rs. 1548.95 crore has been awarded to 5,73,856 claimants of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, found to be eligible by the Welfare Commissioner, who is a sitting judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. In addition to this, in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court dated 19th July 2004, and 26th October 2004, pro-rata compensation on 1:1 basis of Rs. 1509.13 crore has been disbursed among 5,62,388 claimants, till 07.11.2008.

The various relief and rehabilitation works undertaken, so far are as follows:

Under the medical rehabilitation plan, 7 hospitals, 5 civil dispensaries and 2 poly clinics and 3 dispensaries each of the Homeopathy, Unani and Indian Medical Systems are engaged in the medical care and treatment of the victims residing in 36 gas affected wards of Bhopal. In addition, 3 more hospitals consisting one each of Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani System of medicines are also functioning. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had taken up 24 studies to evaluate the effects of MIC gas on the victims. The ICMR closed its research work in 1993-94 and the team of Scientists engaged in this work had continued to work under the State Government. The Central Government had provided a Corpus Fund of Rs.5 crore to continue this work.

Under the economic rehabilitation, training was provided to the youth of gas affected wards, 42 work-sheds and 152 industrial sheds were constructed for providing employment opportunities in the Units set up in these sheds.

Under the social rehabilitation plan, 2468 houses were constructed and allotted to the widows of the gas victims besides providing initial relief measures like pensions to about 1077 widows, distribution of milk to the lactating mothers and the children, etc.

Under the environmental rehabilitation, construction of drains, plantation of trees and augmentation of safe drinking water supply was taken up. In April, 2006, Government of India had sanctioned money for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sanctioned Rs.14.18 crore to the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to the 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing the Scheme.

(b) The Government of India has no information in the matter.

(c) The details have been given in the reply to (a) above.

Reduction in prices of fertilizers in the International market

†1287. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that past few months have witnessed a steep fall in the prices of chemical fertilizers in the International market;

(b) if so, the extent of fall in the prices between March, 2008 and November, 2008;

(c) whether Government has decided to pass on the benefit of the fall in prices to the producers of fertilizers in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is fall in the price of chemical fertilizers in the international price, as given below:-

Price Trends 2008-09

Fertilizer Market Bulletin

(US $ pt)

Month	DAP C&F US	MOP FOB	UREA FOB
1	2	3	4
March 2008	1153.00	434.00	392.00
April 2008	1319.62	515.00	452.50
May 2008	1331.87	666.87	628.75
June 2008	1286.75	812.17	677.50
July 2008	1291.90	725.00	783.00